



Global AIDS Program

Country Profile — *India FY2004*

Under the direction of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator's Office, the HHS/CDC Global AIDS Program (GAP) is a proud partner in the unified U.S. Government effort to implement the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. GAP helps resource-constrained countries prevent HIV infection; improve treatment, care and support for people living with HIV; and build capacity and infrastructure to address the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.



HIV/AIDS Situation in India

HIV Infected: 5.1 million¹
AIDS Deaths: Not available¹
AIDS Orphans: Not available¹

India has the second largest number of people living with HIV/AIDS in the world, with an adult population prevalence of approximately 5.13 percent.² Though HIV infection in India is concentrated among poor, marginalized groups, HIV is spreading quickly into the general population. Approximately 90 percent of reported AIDS cases occur in sexually active and economically productive individuals aged 15 to 44 years.

About GAP India

Year Established: 2001

FY 2004 Core Funds: \$3 million

FY2004 Emergency Plan Funds: \$2 million*

In-Country Staffing: 3 CDC Direct Hires; 7 Locally Employed Staff

GAP India experienced substantial growth in FY 2004. Capacity for program management in country doubled with the addition of three new technical officers. The Chennai office is now headed by a medical epidemiologist and supported by two locally employed technical officers, while the New Delhi office, headed by the GAP Country Director, has added a locally employed medical officer and a part time contractor for monitoring and evaluation (M & E) to its staff. GAP India is taking the lead in developing an HIV/AIDS training program for U.S. Embassy employees and CDC technical officers regularly participate in the U.S. Mission HIV/AIDS Coordinating Committee and infectious disease committees.

GAP India works closely with government of Tamil Nadu, key bilateral partners such as the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, local nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and academic institutions to ensure coordination and foster collaboration.

Recently, the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala requested that GAP India support the implementation of their HIV/AIDS programs. In response, GAP India is providing ongoing technical assistance to the Andhra Pradesh State AIDS Control Society and expanded its community care programs into one of the high prevalence districts. GAP India participated in the national rollout of antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, participating in national stakeholders and steering committee meetings, and providing critically needed training to support the rollout at one of the four designated antiretroviral therapy (ART) centers in India. GAP India also participated at the national level in the mother-to-child HIV transmission steering committee as well as the national surveillance and HIV tuberculosis (TB) co-infection committees

Website:
www.cdc.gov/gap



¹ UNAIDS, Report of the Global AIDS Epidemic, 2004.

² India National AIDS Control Organization, 2004

* Supplemental funds received through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.



FY2004 GAP India Achievements

Number of individuals who received counseling and testing at CDC/GAP-supported sites	8,511
Number of country nationals trained in the provision of laboratory activities	76
Number of HIV tests performed at CDC/GAP-supported laboratories	1,577
Number of individuals trained in surveillance methods and operations	2
Number of individuals trained by CDC/GAP for a technical program area	1,279
Number of organizations/agencies receiving CDC/GAP support for monitoring and evaluation activities	

Data above are from GAP India's 2004 Annual Report.

Critical Interventions for HIV/AIDS Prevention

- ◆ To increase local knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention, TB/HIV, laboratory quality control, new HIV diagnostic technology, HIV stigma and discrimination, M & E, HIV care, and public/private partnerships, GAP India supported numerous workshops, roundtables, seminars and lectures.
- ◆ Voluntary HIV counseling and testing (VCT) centers around India are slowly improving the quality of their care. GAP has supported the revision of national HIV counseling and testing guidelines and the training of trainers and counselors in counselor and laboratory training programs.
- ◆ In one facility in southeast India eight GAP-supported and trained counselors provided HIV/AIDS prevention counseling to more than 2,000 individuals and 750 families in less than a year.

Critical Intervention for HIV/AIDS Treatment and Care

- ◆ GAP India has provided capacity building and infrastructure support to a public sector hospital considered one of the largest HIV and TB centers in India since the program began operation in 2001. Most of the patients are from the rural areas and many travel as far as 400 kilometers to receive care at this facility. To increase the quality of care and decrease the burden on the institution, GAP India has focused activities on strengthening the capacity of community-level health care providers to provide care closer to home. More than 450 health care providers were trained in HIV/AIDS care and support through 18 separate GAP India sponsored training programs in 2004.
- ◆ GAP India supports one of four institutions responsible for training and supervising health care providers in India for the rollout of the national ART program. In 2004, more than 500 people were placed on ART and an additional 1,500 were screened. GAP India has also supported the development of curriculum and training materials to further support the program.
- ◆ GAP India supported the Indian Network of Positive People in their development of a family counseling program. Through this program, couples counseling and practical support on building skills and identifying resources on living positively with HIV is provided (in addition to VCT). The Family Counseling Center was established as a model for the country and served more than 2,000 individuals and 750 families in 2004.

Critical Intervention for HIV/AIDS Surveillance and Infrastructure Development

- ◆ GAP India supported development of a patient information system that generated data, helping national and state level officials recognize the critical need to develop quality HIV/AIDS and HIV/TB programs in south India. With the assistance of a GAP-supported biostatistician, data on more than 11,000 patients was entered into the system.
- ◆ GAP India completed a project to renovate a laboratory, improve the infrastructure and quality assured diagnostics, at a large public hospital. Through the project, a senior laboratory director and several laboratory technicians were hired and trained.

Critical Interventions in Monitoring and Evaluation

- ◆ GAP India supported development of a patient information system that generated data, helping national and state level officials recognize the critical need to develop quality HIV/AIDS and HIV/TB programs in south India. With the assistance of a GAP-supported biostatistician, data on more than 11,000 patients was entered into the system.
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